

(SRI V S. PATIL)

labour and at the expense of these people for the last so many years, the shanubhogues and some others have tried to bring in some others and create trouble. Every year, Sir, when the lease of these lands is to be renewed, unless something is paid to those talatis, they can never obtain leases from these people, and so in some cases the lands are shown as waste lands in the Government records. But in fact, they have been continuously cultivated by those people by paying assessment as rent and that sum, it appears, must have been misappropriated by these talatis. Recently about a year back, it appears that the Government issued some orders to terminate the tenancies of those people and notices were issued to those cultivators last year terminating their tenancies, resulting in a huge loss of production because it is an area of more than 9,000 acres. If this area were to lie fallow, what would have been the loss to the agricultural production. We are all saying, right from the leader of the nation Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to every one of us, that agricultural production must be increased. But by an order of the Government, notices were issued by the Tahsildar and surprisingly the lands were to lie fallow during this particular season. I do not know, Sir, whether the Government and their officers had considered it reasonable to allow such great extent of land to lie fallow, when we are bringing foodstuffs from abroad. All these lands are under food cultivation, either paddy or ragi. They are practically of no use for any other commercial crop purposes. In spite of this fact, the Government issued that order which has created set back to the actual cultivator.

Sri M. V. KRISHNAPPA.—Which is that order? Can the Hon'ble member quote it?

Sri V. S. PATIL.—We do not know. But we know you have issued notices terminating tenancies on the ground that lands should be reserved for displaced persons who are to be displaced under the Hidkal project. Our submission is that the persons who are displaced under the Hidkal project are to be rehabilitated in places where Hidkal waters are irrigating lands. They come from dry area. They are not people who are habituated to this malnad area where rains are very heavy and they are within the thick forest area. People displaced under the Hidkal project need not be rehabilitated here because the conditions both climatic and pattern of crop are completely different and they cannot be properly rehabilitated. The suggestion we had made to Government officers was that the land which was to be benefited by the Hidkal Dam, some part of that land should be acquired for these people and that these people should be rehabilitated there where they could pull on well without disturbing these tenants.

There was another aspect to this. An attempt was made, to increase the Kannada population of these two talukas. That was a point I wanted to avoid mentioning here. But I have to bring it to the notice of the Government that the Kannada people are being brought and rehabilitated in these areas which are completely Marathi areas. That

suspicion should not be there, about the aims and objects of the Government. We have to rehabilitate those people also, I do understand. But the best way for rehabilitating them is, as I have already suggested, not by ousting these 1,000 families from this area.

This is another thing. All these lands were formerly surrounded by forest area and when there was malaria prevalent in these parts; all these lands were lying waste. Now due to eradication of malaria, people have taken up earnestly to cultivate these lands and they are making their humble contribution in increasing the food production of the country. Practically all these lands are situated in those villages which were *bcharak*—the population which once inhabited these villages having gone away from those villages. These lands were lying fallow for years together. That is why, I want to submit here that these people who have been cultivating these lands for the last 20 to 25 years should not be disturbed from their avocation, merely on the pretext of rehabilitating the displaced persons in the Hidkal area.

Then there will be another aspect. If these lands are to be taken away from those people, it will create unemployment. The proposal of the Government to give two acres of wet land, four acres of other kinds of land and 10 acres of dry land, is rather strange. Because, no family consisting of five to ten persons can survive by working on this small piece of land—two acres or four acres. In order to help the family sustain, they must have five to six acres of paddy land, which we may term as wet land, at least five to six acres of dry land for growing ragi and other crops. Then alone, the family can survive. So, as suggested by the Hon'ble Minister in his reply to part (b) of the question under discussion, that in all other cases leases will be terminated from the due date this is rather troublesome.

**Sri M. V. KRISHNAPPA.**—Legally, but the next day it will be renewed, because it is 'Eksal' cultivation. It cannot be more than that.

**Sri V. S. PATIL.**—If they are to be removed, the question of unemployment will come up, and we will have the approach the Minister and again trouble him and his officers for grant of land. That should not happen. That is what we are requesting, Sir.

The last thing which I should like to bring to the notice of this House and the Hon'ble Minister is that when a circular was issued that persons who have been there for more than six years will be given occupancy rights by payment of reasonable price, the moment that circular reached the village officers, can you imagine that the village officer, that is, the Talati, and the Tahasildar of Khanapur taluk have collected not less than Rs. 50,000 from the people on the assurance that these lands would be given to them permanently? We have got written applications from these cultivators; we have shown them to the higher officers, but they ask us to prepare one draft, and take the anti-corruption people and then catch the culprits. Is it our business? We can bring these things to the notice of the higher officer, but we are not expected to go round, collect evidence and catch those people; that is not our business; we are not going to do it. It is the business of Government to see that

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their administration is not corrupt and if such instances are brought to their notice, they should take steps to investigate privately or publicly or in any way. I feel sure that if the Revenue Minister sends some C.I.D. who is straightforward, to see what really happened in these cases, he will find out the truth. If he intends to re collect the amount given by these people, the amount may come to a lakh of rupees. In one or two cases, these Talatis away the standing trees to a third person without the knowledge of the incumbents and those people have cut and removed the wood worth several thousands of rupees. This also is unauthorised. All these things must be looked into by the department to see that the Hon'ble Ministers department is free from corruption, any sort of allegation and for that purpose, he will be pleased to send C.I.D. to investigate the matter.

SRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA.—After the Second World War, the farmers throughout the country were encouraged to grow more food, and for that purpose they were given Government waste lands and as a result of that, in old Mysore there was what was called 'G.M.F.' Scheme—Grow more food scheme. In respect of all lands in old Mysore, pattas were given to the farmers, whereas in the integrated areas i.e., in Madras area it was known as Sivajama cultivation and in Bombay area Ek-sal cultivation. Unfortunately, in regard to Ek-sal cultivation, there was the drawback of the lease having to be renewed every year, because it is known as 'Ek-sal'. When we say that at the end of the year, the lease terminates, that means, next year it starts again; it is the usual thing. Because it is known as 'Ek-sal' cultivation, the cultivation is only for one year and at the end of the year, again it is leased to the same man. That is the normal practice. I did not know what happened in this Taluk and about 4 years back, Sri V. S. Patil brought it to my notice that there was trouble in Khanapur, Belgaum and Gokak area. Before him I rang up the Deputy Commissioner and before Sri Patil I instructed the Deputy Commissioner that he must immediately look into the case and see that there was no harassment to the farmers. Whether Maharashtrians or Kannadigas, they have to work hard and produce more in the interests of the country. The Deputy Commissioner who had discussions with the concerned people reported to me that the matter was under examination. It is true that the land there, nearly 10,000 acres is under 'Ek-sal' cultivation and in 1960 an order was issued not to give away this land on a permanent basis to the tenants who were cultivating it because then the Government thought that it was their primary duty to rehabilitate the people who were going to be displaced in the Hidkal Dam area, because of the submersion on account of the construction of Hidkal Dam. To rehabilitate those people is to take them over to Khanapur Taluk and get them lands. They issued a notice in 1960 that no land should be permanently disposed of to those tenants who were cultivating the land under the 'Ek-sal' system in two or three taluks. As a result of this order, no allotments of land was made permanent to the tenants.

Last year, as I took up the office, I examined various things and issued a general notice to all the Deputy Commissioners that 'Ek-sal' cultivation should be abolished as far as possible and that if they have cultivated the land continuously for six years, it should be confirmed to them at an upset price fixed at that time. In one district like Bellary, nearly one lakh of acres which was under 'Ek-sal' system, was given to the pattadars; permanent pattas were given to them and I myself went and distributed pattas to nearly 12,000 farmers to the extent of 60,000 acres in one district like Bellary and in Kollegal also which was formerly in Madras State. In Mysore, there was no 'Ek-sal' system, but there was a system which was safer and more secure than the system that existed in Bombay and Madras. Here the direction was to confirm the grant of land. The land which was granted under the 'G.M.F.' scheme was confirmed regularly to the farmers.

6-30 P.M.

In Bombay Karnatak they were issuing orders. Unfortunately in Khanapur Taluk it was not given to the farmers because they wanted to reserve land for the people to be rehabilitated as a result of the construction of Hidkal Dam. Only in Kharapur Taluk land was not passed on to the farmers. Afterwards we went into that question. As Sri Patil says, it was not possible for the people of Hidkal to go and settle in Khanapur. The weather also was quite different. These people were used to dry cultivation and in Khanapur there is wet cultivation. Our farmers are not so advanced. For these farmers who are used to dry cultivation, it is difficult to make them resort to wet cultivation and to start life afresh. So we decided that the Hidkal peoples should be rehabilitated below the Dam and in the near-by area. So we issued instructions that the reservations should go and the land should be confirmed in favour of the people who were cultivating on a temporary basis.

By this time the Cabinet took a decision to appoint a committee in every Taluk to go into the question of available land and how much of revenue land should be given to the forest department and *vice versa*. As a result of this decision, the Belgaum Deputy Commissioner had to form a committee in Khanapur and Gokak. So, already steps have been taken and in Kadabgatti, Gokak Taluk 1,070 acres have been given to those who were cultivating on an 'Ek-sal' basis. In respect of other areas also they have sent proposals and we are about to issue orders. So, Sir, Government is not going to take away any land cultivated by those people temporarily nor have we any idea of Marathi and Kannada raiyat. In fact, Kannada people are very shy people and they do not go to other places and settle down there as the Telugu and Tamil people do. The trouble is, anything done by Government in the border area will be misunderstood and motives will be attributed. I assure Sri V. S. Patil that this land will be distributed among those who were cultivating them for a period of six years. I will visit the place as early as possible and see that this is done.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—The House will now rise and meet to-morrow at 8-30 A.M.

*The House adjourned at Thirty-five Minutes past Six of the Clock to meet again at Thirty Minutes past Eight of the Clock on Saturday, the 14th September 1963.*